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THE INFINITY ABYSS!

LAMENTATIONS FROM THE EDGE.

WHERE ?!

WHERE IS HE?

WHERE IS SHE?

THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME LEFT TO ME.

LEFT TO ALL THAT THERE IS, THEN...

MADNESS AND OBLIVION!
A WARLOCK OR MAGUS IS SAID TO BE A WISE MAN.
TRUE, AT TIMES I HAVE FELT I POSSESS MORE WISDOM THAN THOSE AROUND ME.
BUT NOT THIS DAY. CONFUSION REIGNS.
FOR I, ADAM WARLOCK,
NOW STARE NUMBLY AT APPROACHING DOOM AND PART OF ME WELCOMES IT.

I STRUGGLE TO RESIST THE NEARLY OVERPOWERING URGE TO LASH OUT AT MY COMRADES.
CAN THEY NOT SEE HOW FUTILE AND WRONG THEIR OPPOSITION IS?
WHY DO THEY NOT EMBRACE THE SIREN CALL OF THE VOID?

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A MAD CALLING!

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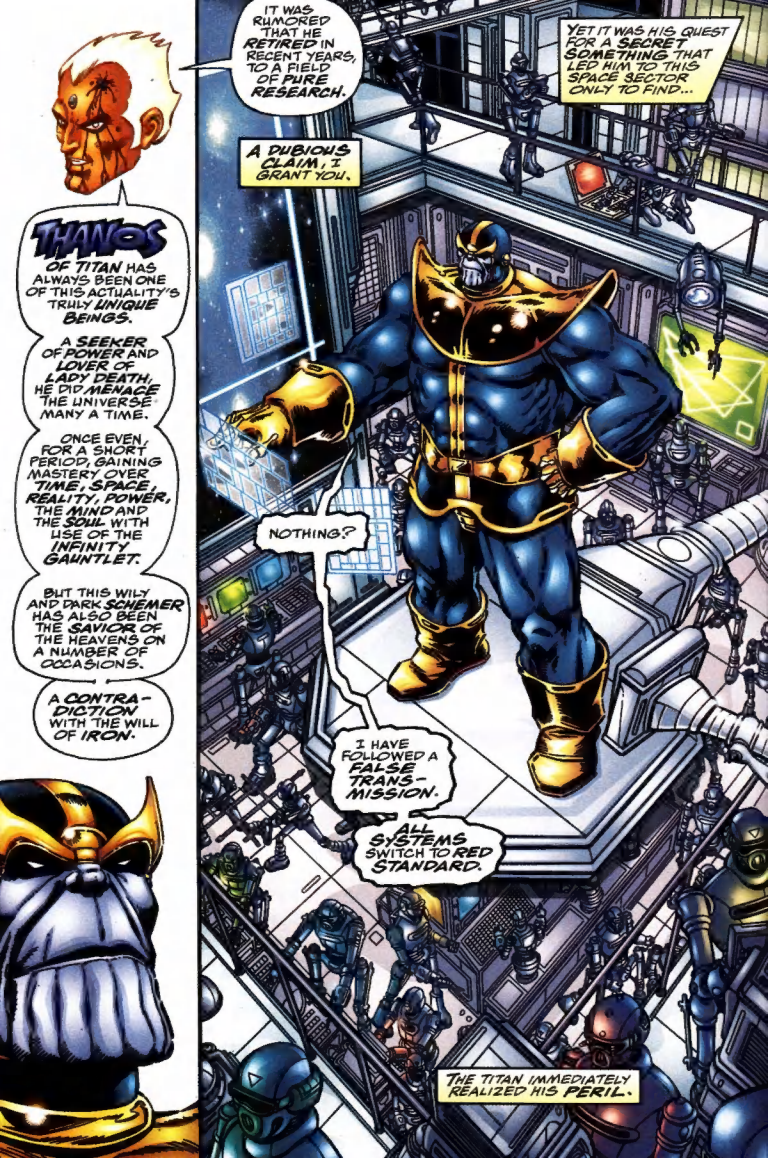
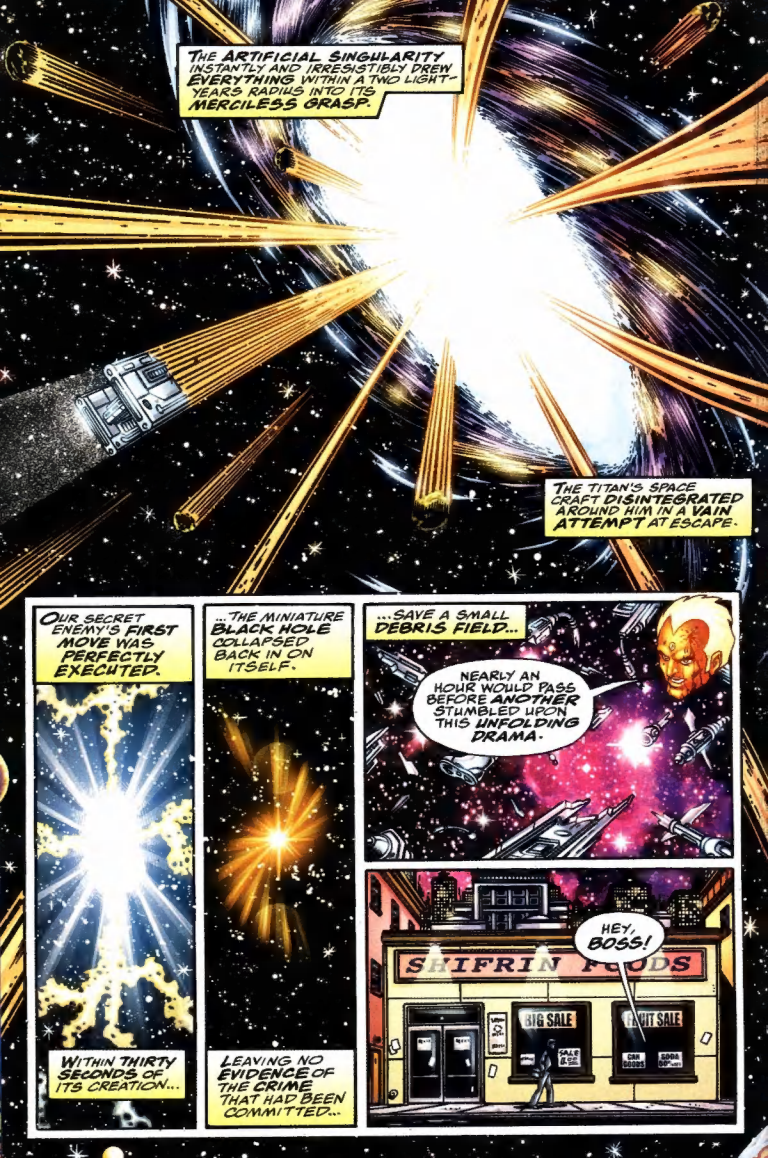
THANOS WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS NIHILISTIC SENTIMENT BETTER THAN ANY.
IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT LESS THAN IZ SHORT HOURS AGO, HE BECAME THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE INSANITY THAT THREATENS TO ENGULF US ALL.
THE LURE WAS A CERTAIN TRANSMISSION SIGNATURE EMANATING FROM A DISTANT STAR SYSTEM.
IT PROMISED A PRIZE THE MAD TITAN HAD LONG BEEN SEARCHING FOR SURREPTITIOUSLY.


THANOS OF TITAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THIS ACTUALITY'S TRULY UNIQUE BEINGS.
A SEEKER OF POWER AND LOVER OF LADY DEATH, HE DID MENACE THE UNIVERSE MANY A TIME.
ONCE EVEN, FOR A SHORT PERIOD, GAINING MASTERY OVER TIME, SPACE, REALITY, POWER, THE MIND AND THE SOUL WITH USE OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
BUT THIS WILY AND DARK SCHEMER HAS ALSO BEEN THE SAVIOR OF THE HEAVENS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.
A CONTRA-DICTION WITH THE WILL OF IRON.
IT WAS RUMORED THAT HE RETIRED IN RECENT YEARS, TO A FIELD OF PURE RESEARCH.
A DUBIOUS CLAIM, I GRANT YOU.
YET IT WAS HIS QUEST FOR A SECRET SOMETHING THAT LED HIM TO THIS SPACE SECTOR ONLY TO FIND...
NOTHING?
I HAVE FOLLOWED A FALSE TRANS-MISSION.
ALL SYSTEMS SWITCH TO RED STANDARD.
THE TITAN IMMEDIATELY REALIZED HIS PERIL.

THE BAIT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY ONE FAMILIAR WITH THANOS' QUEST.
BUT THE TITAN'S GOAL WAS A SECRET HE HAD SHARED WITH NO BEING.
YET SOMEONE KNEW.
SOMEONE CLOSE.
SCANNERS INSTANTLY DETECTED THE SMALL OBJECT AS IT TELE-PORTED CLOSE TO THANOS' CRAFT...
IT LOOKED HARMLESS ENOUGH.
AS THANOS HAD INTENDED IT TO WHEN DESIGN-ING IT.
DETECTED: ONE SA:751 DETONATION IN 02 SECONDS
GRAVE DANGER IN A VERY SMALL PACKAGE.
A TRAP.
I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED.
BUT BY WHO?
WHO?!
A CATACLYSMIC ERUPTION OF THE ETHER, A RENT IN SPACE ITSELF, ANSWERED THANOS.
THE STARS ARE NOT EASILY IMPRESSED, EVEN BY THE FURY OF A TITAN.

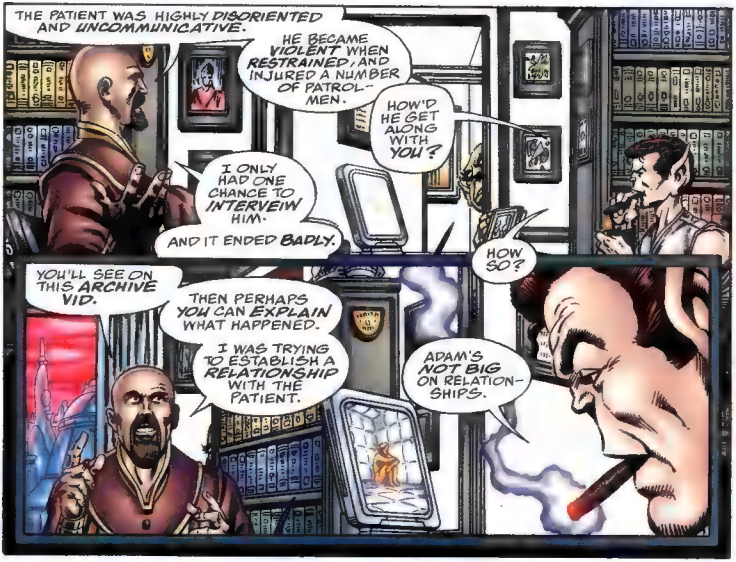

THE ARTIFICIAL SINGULARITY INSTANTLY AND IRRESISTIBLY DREW EVERYTHING WITHIN A TWO LIGHT-YEARS RADIUS INTO ITS MERCILESS GRASP.
THE TITAN'S SPACE CRAFT DISINTEGRATED AROUND HIM IN A VAIN ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE.
OUR SECRET ENEMY'S FIRST MOVE WAS PERFECTLY EXECUTED.
WITHIN THIRTY SECONDS OF ITS CREATION...
...THE MINIATURE BLACK HOLE COLLAPSED BACK IN ON ITSELF.
LEAVING NO EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME THAT HAD BEEN COMMITTED...
...SAVE A SMALL DEBRIS FIELD...
NEARLY AN HOUR WOULD PASS BEFORE ANOTHER STUMBLED UPON THIS UNFOLDING DRAMA.
HEY, BOSS!
BIG SALE
SALE

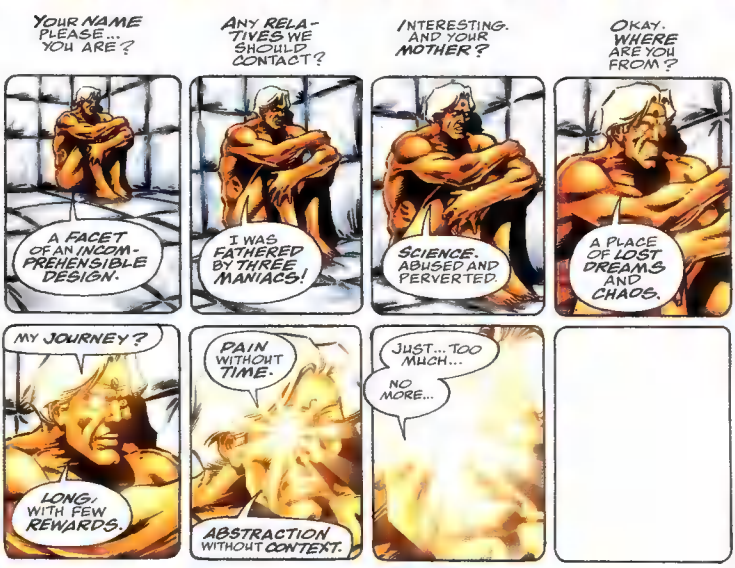
WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE CEREAL SECTION.
NEXT IT'S ON TO CANNED GOODS, RYAN, AND THEN CONDIMENTS.
CHRIS, THERE'S A BAD SPILL IN DAIRY THAT NEEDS ATTENDING.
RIGHT ON IT, MR. SHIFRIN.
SPILL
DON'T TAKE ALL DAY.
I NEED...
I...
I...
TOO COOL TO BE TRUE, DUDE!
RYAN, WHAT HAPPENED?!

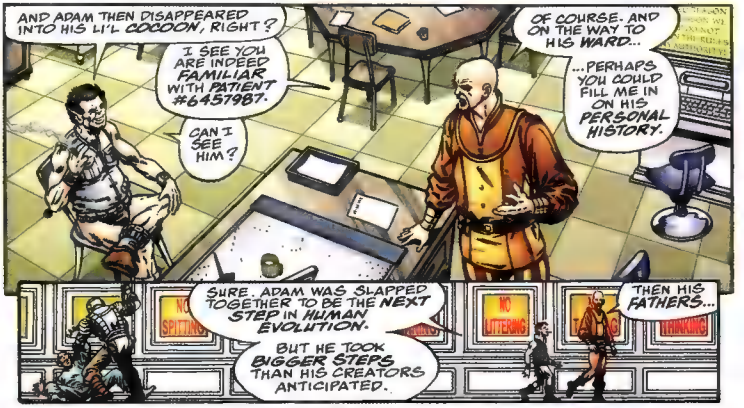
WELL, THE BOSS SPROUTED TENTACLES AND DISAPPEARED INTO WHATEVER THAT THING IS.
WEIRD, HUH?
VERY. SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
REPORT IT TO SOMEONE, I GUESS.
YOU MEAN LIKE THE COPS?
THINK THAT'S SUCH A HOT IDEA?
OH, YEAH...
I GOT THAT POT BUST SIX MONTHS BACK.
AND ME WITH THAT SHOP-LIFTING THING ON MY RECORD.
THEY'LL THINK WE DID IT!
I GOT IT!
WHAT SAY WE FINISH THE SHIFT, PUNCH OUT AND PRETEND NOTHIN' HAPPENED?
WORKS FOR ME.

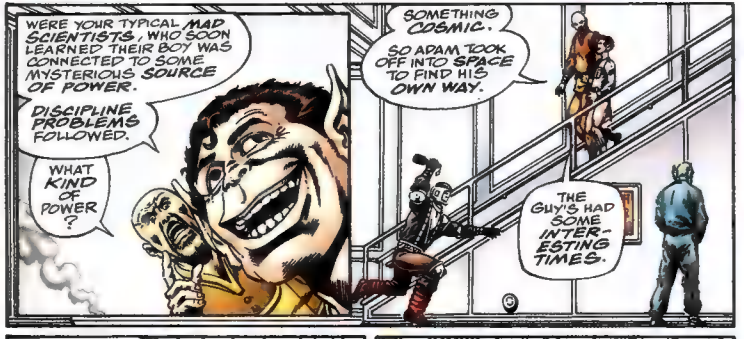
DOCTOR STRANGE
IS THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, HIS VOCATION: UNRAVELING OCCULT MYSTERIES.
HE IS ALSO A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE BIZARRE GROUP KNOWN AS THE DEFENDERS.
I HAVE ONLY BRIEFLY CROSSED HIS PATH, DURING OTHER ADVENTURES INTO THE INFINITE.
BUT I KNOW HIM TO BE A BRAVE AND THINKING WARRIOR.
A LESSER MAN WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TWICE BEFORE DELVING INTO SUCH DANGEROUSLY MURKY WATERS.
MASTER, YOU HAVE RETURNED FROM YOUR ASTRAL TRAVELS.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR YOUR USUAL TEA?
NO AMENITIES, WONG.
THIS NIGHT MY MYSTIC SENSES LED ME TO THE OCCURRENCE OF THREE IMPOSSIBLE EVENTS.
I THEN WITNESSED THEM ENSHRINED WITHIN SEPARATE BLOCKS OF SEEMING NOTHINGNESS.
DARK FORCES ARE AT WORK THIS EVE.
FORCES I DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND.
FORCES THAT I FEAR THREATEN ALL REALITY.

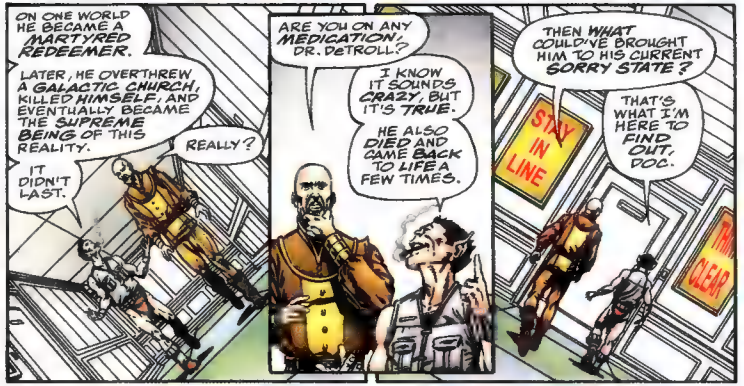
I MYSELF WAS TO LEARN OF THIS DANGER BY A MORE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE.
I WAS IN RESIDENCE ON THE PLANET DEGAITOR IN THE HERCULEAN SPIRE.
AN UNWILLING GUEST OF THE CORPORATION FOR MENTAL STABILITY.
YES, IT WAS A SITUATION I NEEDED RESCUING FROM.
AND MY UNLIKELY SAVIOR WOULD BE PIP the Troll.
NOW, PIP IS A SCOUNDREL AND ROGUE WILLING TO CHEAT MOST ANYONE OF THEIR LAST DIME.
BUT IF YOU'RE A FRIEND HE'D GO TO THE END OF THE GALAXY TO AID YOU.
FORTUNATELY, RADIATION FROM THE SPACE GEM THAT HE USED TO POSSESS STILL ALLOWS HIM TO TELEPORT ANYWHERE HE CHOOSES.
SO HE ARRIVED ON DEGAITOR AS...
DOCTOR DeTROLL, AS YOU CAN SEE, OURS IS THE FINEST INSTITUTE OF ITS KIND IN THE SECTOR.
REAL CHARMING.
NOW, ABOUT MY PATIENT, DR. NILRATS.
IF HE IS INDEED THE MAN YOU SEEK, TWO YEARS AGO HE WAS BROUGHT IN BY THE SECURITY FORCE.
CAUSING TROUBLE, WAS HE?
SOUNDS LIKE ADAM.
SANE


THE PATIENT WAS HIGHLY DISORIENTED AND UNCOMMUNICATIVE.
HE BECAME VIOLENT WHEN RESTRAINED, AND INJURED A NUMBER OF PATROLMEN.
HOW'D HE GET ALONG WITH YOU?
I ONLY HAD ONE CHANCE TO INTERVEIW HIM.
AND IT ENDED BADLY.
HOW SO?
YOU'LL SEE ON THIS ARCHIVE VID.
THEN PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.
I WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PATIENT.
ADAM'S NOT BIG ON RELATIONSHIPS.


YOUR NAME PLEASE... YOU ARE?
A FACET OF AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE DESIGN.
ANY RELATIVES WE SHOULD CONTACT?
I WAS FATHERED BY THREE MANIACS!
INTERESTING. AND YOUR MOTHER?
SCIENCE. ABUSED AND PERVERTED.
OKAY. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
A PLACE OF LOST DREAMS AND CHAOS.
MY JOURNEY?
LONG, WITH FEW REWARDS.
PAIN WITHOUT TIME.
ABSTRACTION WITHOUT CONTEXT.
JUST... TOO MUCH...
NO MORE...

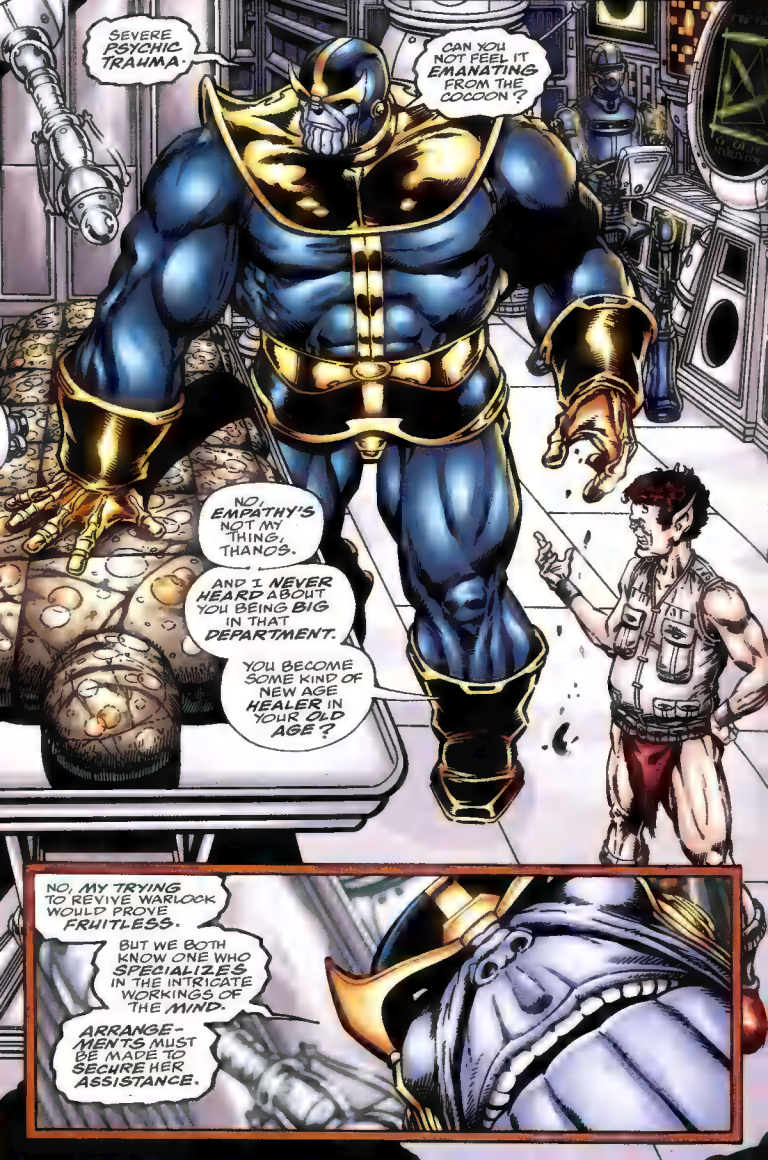

AND ADAM THEN DISAPPEARED INTO HIS LI'L COCOON, RIGHT?
I SEE YOU ARE INDEED FAMILIAR WITH PATIENT #6457987.
CAN I SEE HIM?
OF COURSE. AND ON THE WAY TO HIS WARD...
...PERHAPS YOU COULD FILL ME IN ON HIS PERSONAL HISTORY.
SURE. ADAM WAS SLAPPED TOGETHER TO BE THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION.
BUT HE TOOK BIGGER STEPS THAN HIS CREATORS ANTICIPATED.
THEN HIS FATHERS...
NO SPITTING
NO LITTERING
THINKING


WERE YOUR TYPICAL MAD SCIENTISTS, WHO SOON LEARNED THEIR BOY WAS CONNECTED TO SOME MYSTERIOUS SOURCE OF POWER.
DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS FOLLOWED.
WHAT KIND OF POWER?
SOMETHING COSMIC.
SO ADAM TOOK OFF INTO SPACE TO FIND HIS OWN WAY.
THE GUY'S HAD SOME INTER-ESTING TIMES.


ON ONE WORLD HE BECAME A MARTYRED REDEEMER.
LATER, HE OVERTHREW A GALACTIC CHURCH, KILLED HIMSELF, AND EVENTUALLY BECAME THE SUPREME BEING OF THIS REALITY.
REALLY?
IT DIDN'T LAST.
ARE YOU ON ANY MEDICATION, DR. DeTROLL?
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT'S TRUE.
HE ALSO DIED AND CAME BACK TO LIFE A FEW TIMES.
THEN WHAT COULD'VE BROUGHT HIM TO HIS CURRENT SORRY STATE?
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO FIND OUT, DOC.
STAY IN LINE
CLEAR

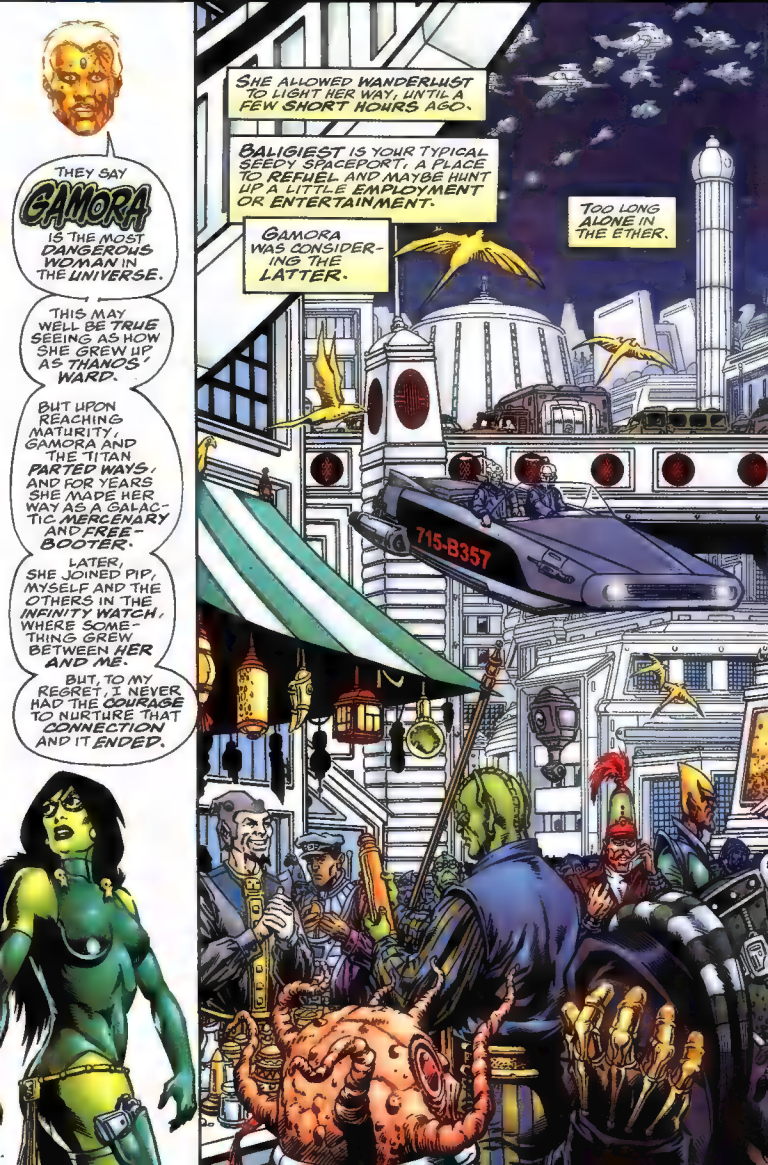
A STORAGE ROOM?
WE HAD BUDGET CUTS.
PLUS, WHENEVER WE SOUGHT TO AID YOUR FRIEND...
YOUR DIAGNOSTIC GIZMOS GOT FRIED.
EXACTLY.
PATIENT #6457987 COULD YET PROVE TO BE A MOST FASCINATING CASE.
A REAL CAREER MAKER, YOU THINK?
WELL, THERE WILL BE PAPERS TO WRITE ON THE SUBJECT.
AND THE LECTURE CIRCUIT...
HEY, ADAM.
NEW DESIGN ON THE COCOON, I SEE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO EMERGE AS THIS TIME?
EMERGE?

HE'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THAT THING?
ALWAYS HAS BEFORE.
THEN WE MUST HURRY!
WE SHOULD RETURN HIM TO GENERAL POPULATION AND CALL A NEWS CONFERENCE.
SURE.
DO THAT.
THIS IS MY TICKET OUT OF--
WHAT?!?
WHERE'D THEY GO?
MY PATIENT!
MY CAREER!
WHERE DID WE AND DR. NILRATS' DREAMS GO?
LIGHT YEARS AWAY, TO A SPACE CRAFT WAY BEYOND PIP'S MEANS.
THE PACKAGE IS DELIVERED AND ON THE EXAMINING TABLE.
WERE THERE ANY DIFFICULTIES?
NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.
THE DOC TRIED TO GET TOUGH WITH ME.
THEN THERE WERE THOSE SIX SECURITY GUARDS.
NO, MAKE THAT EIGHT.
THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ME!
I WAS--
HEY!!
THAT STOGIE COST ME GOOD MONEY!


SEVERE PSYCHIC TRAUMA.
CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT EMANATING FROM THE COCOON?
NO, EMPATHY'S NOT MY THING, THANOS.
AND I NEVER HEARD ABOUT YOU BEING BIG IN THAT DEPARTMENT.
YOU BECOME SOME KIND OF NEW AGE HEALER IN YOUR OLD AGE?
NO, MY TRYING TO REVIVE WARLOCK WOULD PROVE FRUITLESS.
BUT WE BOTH KNOW ONE WHO SPECIALIZES IN THE INTRICATE WORKINGS OF THE MIND.
ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE TO SECURE HER ASSISTANCE.

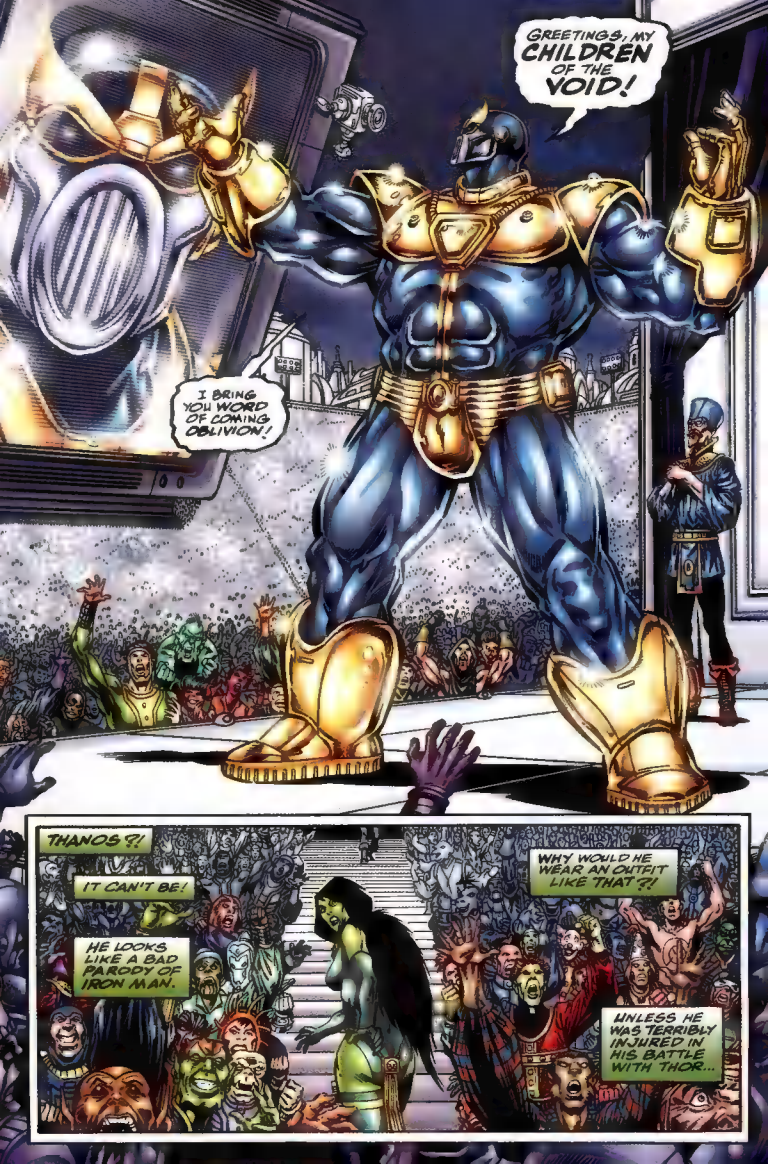
LIKE HIS FATHER, THE CURRENT CAPTAIN MARVEL POSSESSES NEGA-BANDS WHICH ALLOW HIM TO TAP INTO POWERS COSMIC AND SOAR AMIDST THE STARS.
AS THE ORIGINAL DID, THIS KREE WARRIOR SHARES AN EXISTENCE WITH THE EARTHLING RICK JONES.
IT IS AN UNEASY ALLIANCE AND BALANCE.
JONES TAKES GENIS' PLACE IN SOMETHING CALLED THE MICROVERSE WHENEVER THE POWER OF CAPTAIN MARVEL IS NEEDED IN THIS REALITY.
SOMEHOW THEY MANAGE.
THIS REALLY SUCKS BIG TIME, MARV.
WHAT'S OUT HERE THAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE HAD TO SCUTTLE A ROMANTIC DINNER WITH MARLO?
RICK, AS YOU RECALL I HAVE THIS KNACK WE CALL MY COSMIC SENSES?
WELL, THEY'RE SCREAMING THAT SOMETHING MONUMENTAL IS TAKING PLACE OUT HERE BIGTIME!
SO GET OFF MY BACK!

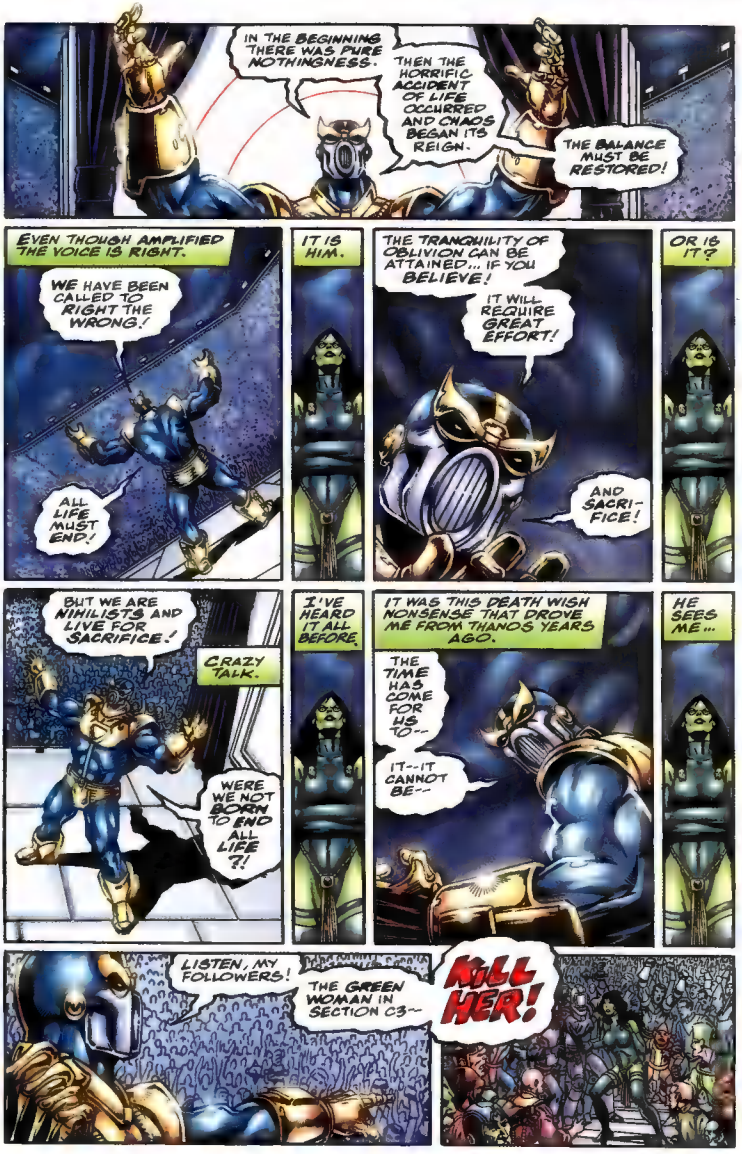
I'M WAITING FOR THE INVADING ALIEN ARMADA, BUT ALL I SEE ARE CHUNKS OF ROCK.
NOT IMPRESSED, MARY.
THEN LOOK DEEPER INTO THE ASTEROID BELT.
AND BE IMPRESSED.
OKAY, YOU GOT ME.
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.
NO, REALLY.
RICK, MY COSMIC SENSES TELL ME THAT FLOATING CUBE CONSISTS OF ABSOLUTE NOTHING-NESS.
IF IT'S NOTHING THEN HOW'S IT HOLDING TOGETHER?
A GOOD QUESTION.
BUT AT THE MOMENT I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHO OR WHAT CREATED IT.
AND WHY?


THEY SAY GAMORA IS THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN THE UNIVERSE.
THIS MAY WELL BE TRUE SEEING AS HOW SHE GREW UP AS THANOS' WARD.
BUT UPON REACHING MATURITY, GAMORA AND THE TITAN PARTED WAYS, AND FOR YEARS SHE MADE HER WAY AS A GALACTIC MERCENARY AND FREE-BOOTER.
LATER, SHE JOINED PIP, MYSELF AND THE OTHERS IN THE INFINITY WATCH, WHERE SOMETHING GREW BETWEEN HER AND ME.
BUT, TO MY REGRET, I NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO NURTURE THAT CONNECTION AND IT ENDED.
SHE ALLOWED WANDERLUST TO LIGHT HER WAY, UNTIL A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO.
BALIGIEST IS YOUR TYPICAL SEEDY SPACEPORT, A PLACE TO REFUEL AND MAYBE HUNT UP A LITTLE EMPLOYMENT OR ENTERTAINMENT.
GAMORA WAS CONSIDERING THE LATTER.
TOO LONG ALONE IN THE ETHER.
715-B357

FORTUNATELY, ALONG WITH INCREDIBLE FIGHTING SKILLS AND STRUCTURAL ENHANCEMENT, THE LADY COMES EQUIPPED WITH VERY ACUTE HEARING.
THEY SAY THE MASTER IS SPEAKING AT THE NIETZSCHE ARENA TONIGHT!
THANOS, HIMSELF!
WE MUST GET TICKETS!

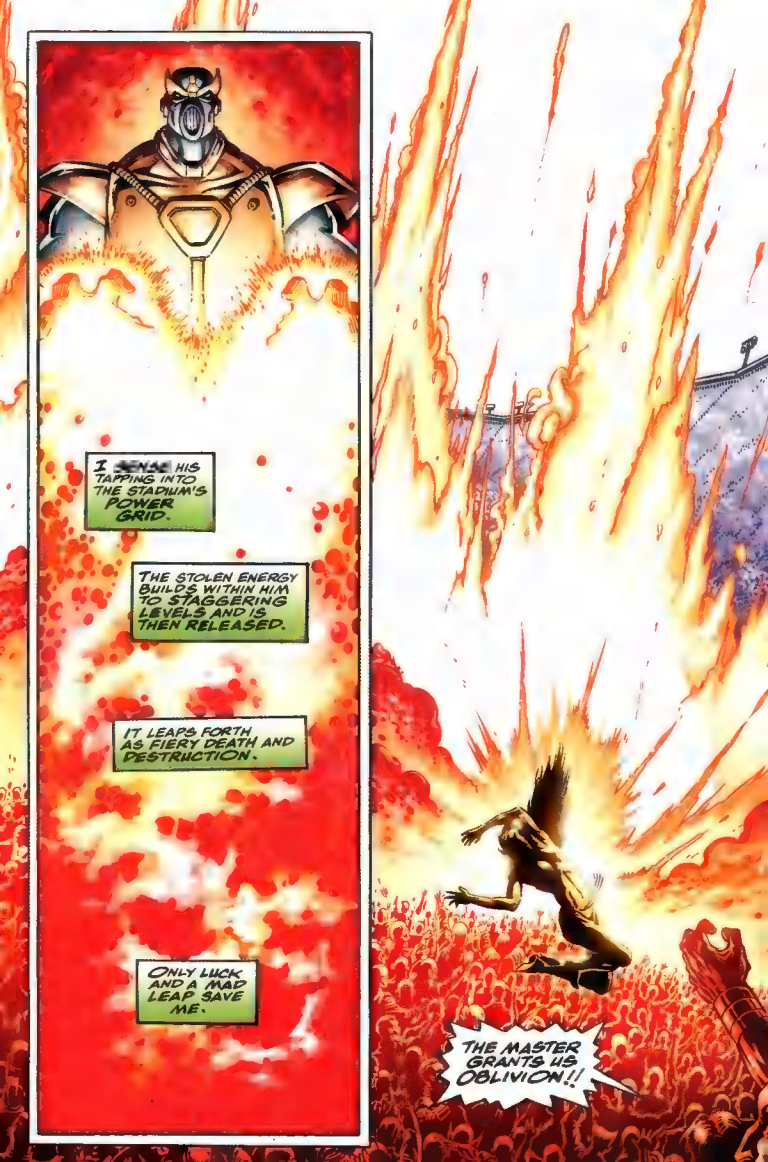
THEY'RE WEARING THE ZERO INSIGNIAS OF THE NIHILIST SECT.
A QUASI-RELIGIOUS GROUP THANOS FOUNDED.
I THOUGHT HE'D DUMPED THOSE LOSERS LONG AGO.
WHAT'S EVEN MORE CURIOUS IS THAT I HEARD TELL THANOS WAS KILLED BATTLING THOR NOT LONG AGO.
SO MUCH FOR THE RELIABILITY OF THE RUMOR MILL.
I WONDER WHAT THE BIG GUY'S BEEN UP TO.
OBVIOUSLY GATHERING CONVERTS TO THE MAD PHILOSOPHY HE USED TO ESPOUSE.
WHAT GOES ON HERE?
WELCOME
NIHILISTS
THANOS GAVE UP ON NIHILISM WHEN IT FAILED TO WIN LADY DEATH'S LOVE FOR HIM.
SO WHY IS HE REVIVING THE CULT NOW?
THANOS' EVERY MOVE IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN PURPOSE.
WHEN LAST WE SPOKE HE HAD FORSAKEN UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION OR CONQUEST.
BUT PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS CHANGE.
THINK I'LL STICK AROUND UNTIL I SEE WHAT'S SHAKING HERE.
IT'S HIM!


GREETINGS, MY CHILDREN OF THE VOID!
I BRING YOU WORD OF COMING OBLIVION!
THANOS?!
IT CAN'T BE!
HE LOOKS LIKE A BAD PARODY OF IRON MAN.
WHY WOULD HE WEAR AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT?!
UNLESS HE WAS TERRIBLY INJURED IN HIS BATTLE WITH THOR...


IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS PURE NOTHINGNESS.
THEN THE HORRIFIC ACCIDENT OF LIFE OCCURRED AND CHAOS BEGAN ITS REIGN.
THE BALANCE MUST BE RESTORED!
EVEN THOUGH AMPLIFIED THE VOICE IS RIGHT.
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO RIGHT THE WRONG.!
ALL LIFE MUST END.
IT IS HIM.
THE TRANQUILITY OF OBLIVION CAN BE ATTAINED... IF YOU BELIEVE!
IT WILL REQUIRE GREAT EFFORT!
AND SACRI-FICE!
OR IS IT?
BUT WE ARE NIHILISTS AND LIVE FOR SACRIFICE.!
CRAZY TALK.
WERE WE NOT BORN TO END ALL LIFE ?!
I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.
IT WAS THIS DEATH WISH NONSENSE THAT DROVE ME FROM THANOS YEARS AGO.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO--
IT--IT CANNOT BE--
HE SEES ME...
LISTEN, MY FOLLOWERS!
THE GREEN WOMAN IN SECTION C3--
KILL HER!

SUDDENLY IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT IS REALLY THANOS OR NOT.
I SWITCH OVER TO SURVIVAL MODE.
IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS YOU ALWAYS TAKE OUT THE BIG ONES FIRST.
THAT WAY THE OTHERS TRIP OVER THEM, TRYING TO REACH YOU.
DESTROY HER!
THEN QUICKLY GET YOUR WEAPONS INTO PLAY.
BEDLAM AND MOVEMENT KEEP YOU FROM BEING AN EASY TARGET.

But presently that's not a big concern.
As warriors these nihilists make for good cannon fodder.
What a surprise.
The real Thanos would know these clowns couldn't possibly take me down.
Unless this is some kind of test.
Is he or isn't he?!
Incompetent FOOLS!


I SENSE HIS TAPPING INTO THE STADIUM'S POWER GRID.
THE STOLEN ENERGY BUILDS WITHIN HIM TO STAGGERING LEVELS AND IS THEN RELEASED.
IT LEAPS FORTH AS FIERY DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.
ONLY LUCK AND A MAD LEAP SAVE ME.
THE MASTER GRANTS US OBLIVION!!

AND I COME TO A RATHER DISTURBING CONCLUSION.
MY ONLY HOPE FOR STAYING ALIVE IS TAKING THE LOW ROAD.
I'M NO MATCH FOR WHOEVER THAT CREEP IS.
HAVE TO REACH THE BLEACHER SECTION.
SEND ME TO THE VOID, MASTER!
NO, ME!
HUH?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
IF THAT'S THE REAL THING HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE NAILS ME.
TIME TO BEAT FEET, SAL.
RIGHT OFF THIS PLANET.
AND OUT OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.
SPACEPO
IN FACT A FEW DOZEN LIGHT YEARS BETWEEN US WOULDN'T HURT.
BUT THEN WHAT?

F THANOS TO WANT TO TAKE ME OUT MUST MEAN HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ESPECIALLY NASTY.
SOMETHING THAT MIGHT EASILY PROVE A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
I NEED SOME FAST ANSWERS TO SOME HARD QUESTIONS.
AND I THINK I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO GET THEM.
MOVE IT, YOU GUYS! WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!
RELAX, VINNIE! THE ALARM'S OFF LINE!
YEAH, WHAT WE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT?

SPIDER-MAN!
A.K.A. PETER PARKER WAS THE ANSWER TO THAT PARTICULAR QUERY.
APPARENTLY, YEARS AGO PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER AND GIVEN ALL THE STRENGTH AND ABILITIES OF A 150-POUND ARACHNID.
THIS ACCIDENT ALSO GRANTED HIM A SIXTH SENSE WHICH WARNS HIM OF DANGER.
I KNOW IT SOUNDS RATHER ABSURD, BUT I HAVE FOUGHT AT SPIDER-MAN'S SIDE, AND KNOW HIM TO BE A TRUE WARRIOR, EVEN IF HIS OFF-WORLD EXPERIENCE IS RATHER LIMITED.
SHAME ON YOU BOZOS, ROBBING A FUR STORAGE!
LEAVING A BUNCH OF RICH OLD LADIES TO FREEZE THEIR BUTTS OFF THIS WINTER!

EVENING, MS. 911.
COULD YOU SEND A PATROL CAR AROUND TO PICK UP FOUR BURGLARS AT THE CRUST FUR DEPOT ON LEX.
THEY'LL BE HANGING FROM THE CEILING IN A WEB SNARE.
WHO'S THIS CALLING?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
Whoa!
WHAT THE--?
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SOUNDING OFF AT FULL VOLUME!
IT'S NEVER KICKED IN THIS STRONG BEFORE.
SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY BIG MUST BE GOING DOWN.
SOMEWHERE TO THE NORTH OF HERE.

I STUMBLED UPON THIS AIM ENCLAVE QUITE BY ACCIDENT, CAPTAIN...
I'M AWARE THE GROUP IS ON YOUR TARGET LIST.
SO I'D LIKE TO INVITE THE AVENGERS OUT WEST TO...
NOT VERY TOUGH, ARE THEY?
NOT WHEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE.
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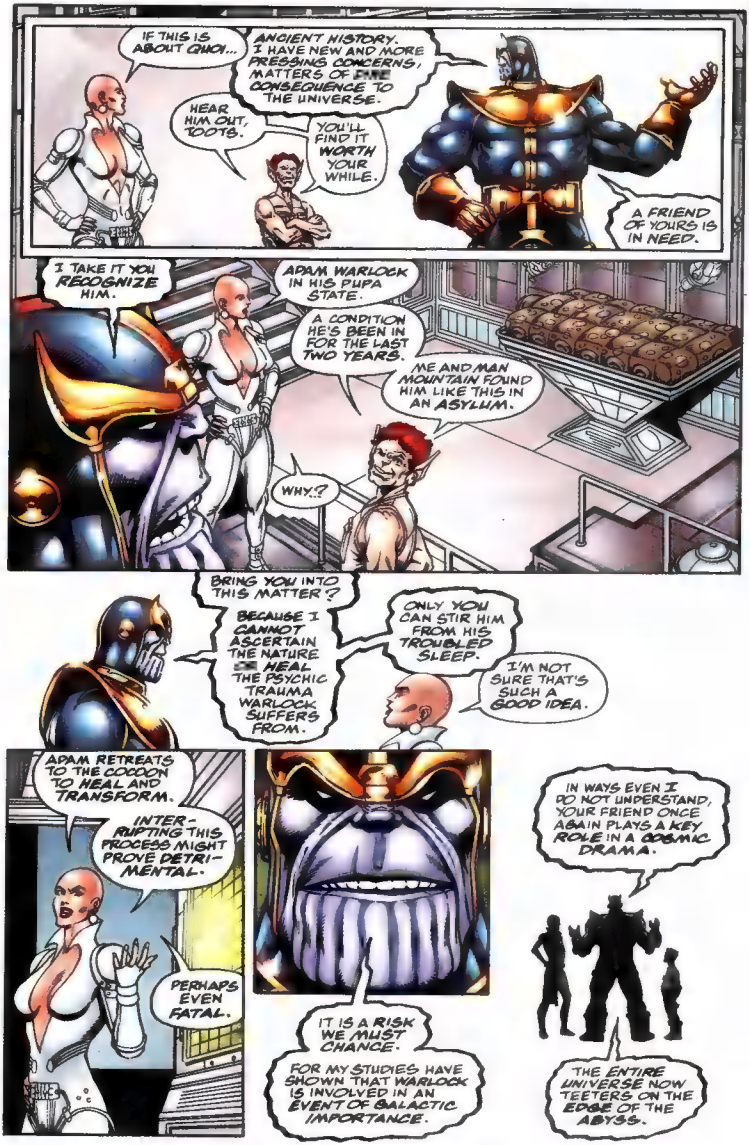
ONCE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENDERS AND LATER OF THE INFINITY WATCH, SHE HAS ALSO BEEN AN AVENGER, BUT NOT ONE IN THE BEST STANDING.
SO...

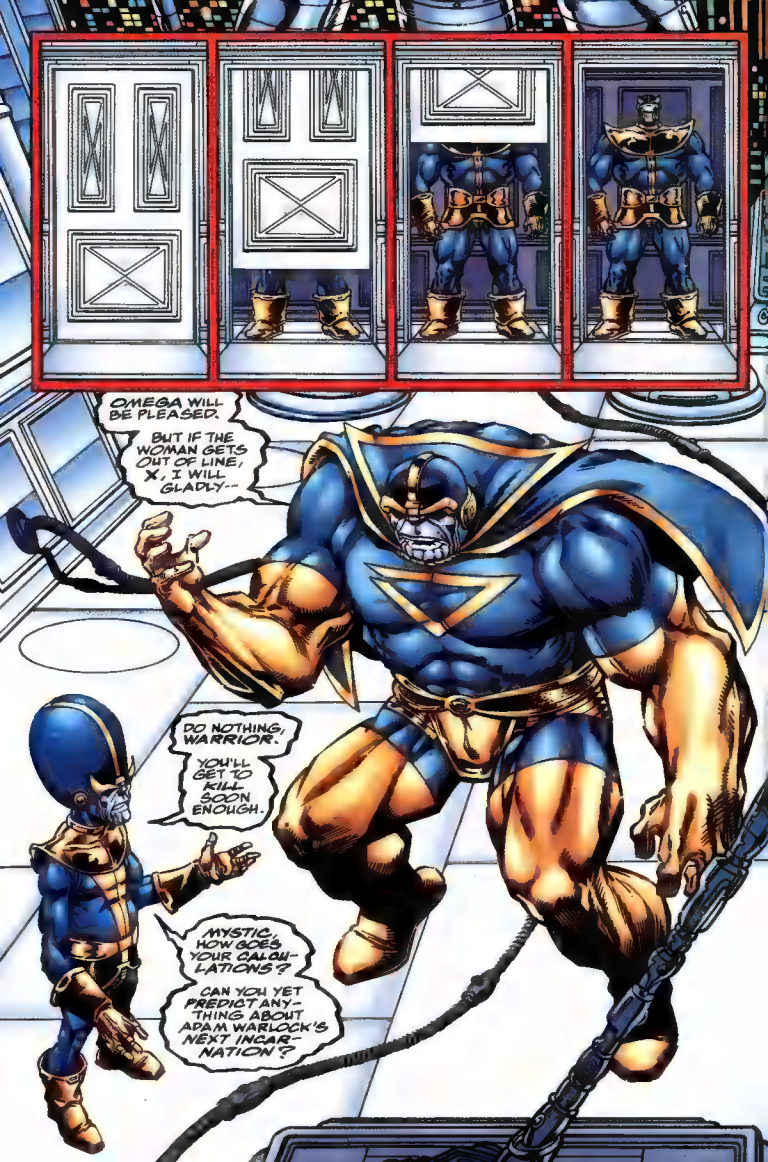
MOON-DRAGON! BEHIND YOU!
I'M WELL AWARE OF HIM, TRI-ATHLON.

NOT HIM.
IT.
WHAT?
IT'S SOME KIND OF TELE-PORTATIONAL GATEWAY.
AND IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MOONY KNEW IT WAS GOING TO GRAB HER.
KIDNAPPING IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY.
KIDNAPPED BY WHO?
IN THE PAST I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING UNFEELING AND RUDE.
SO DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY WHEN I ASK...
...THE LAST I HEARD OF YOU, WEREN'T YOU DEAD?
NO, JUST A LITTLE HUNG OVER.
I BELIEVE OUR GUEST WAS ADDRESSING ME.
AND KEEPING BETTER COMPANY ALSO.
REPTILES AS I RECALL.
AIN'T SHE A CHARMER.
QUIET, TOAD.


IF THIS IS ABOUT CHOI...
ANCIENT HISTORY. I HAVE NEW AND MORE PRESSING CONCERNS; MATTERS OF FAR CONSEQUENCE TO THE UNIVERSE.
HEAR HIM OUT, DOOTS.
YOU'LL FIND IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.
A FRIEND OF YOURS IS IN NEED.
I TAKE IT YOU RECOGNIZE HIM.
ADAM WARLOCK IN HIS PUPA STATE.
A CONDITION HE'S BEEN IN FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.
ME AND MAN MOUNTAIN FOUND HIM LIKE THIS IN AN ASYLUM.
WHY?
BRING YOU INTO THIS MATTER?
BECAUSE I CANNOT ASCERTAIN THE NATURE OR HEAL THE PSYCHIC TRAUMA WARLOCK SUFFERS FROM.
ONLY YOU CAN STIR HIM FROM HIS TROUBLED SLEEP.
I'M NOT SURE THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
ADAM RETREATS TO THE COCOON TO HEAL AND TRANSFORM.
INTER-RUPTING THIS PROCESS MIGHT PROVE DETRI-MENTAL.
PERHAPS EVEN FATAL.
IT IS A RISK WE MUST CHANCE.
FOR MY STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT WARLOCK IS INVOLVED IN AN EVENT OF GALACTIC IMPORTANCE.
IN WAYS EVEN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YOUR FRIEND ONCE AGAIN PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN A COSMIC DRAMA.
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE NOW TEETERS ON THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS.

UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION USED TO BE YOUR GOAL.
MORE ANCIENT HISTORY, AS YOU WELL KNOW.
THIS IS MY REALITY AND I PROTECT WHAT IS MINE.
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.
SO I STUDY REALMS FEW DARE VENTURE INTO.
RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED THIS.
OKAY, YOU PLAY GAMES WHOSE RULES I CAN ONLY GUESS AT.
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
THE GRAVEST OF PERILS.
SO GRAVE, THAT I AM FORCED TO SEEK YOUR TRUST.
I AGREE TO LOWER MY PSYCHIC DEFENSES, TO ALLOW YOU FREE ACCESS TO ALL MY THOUGHTS.
ONLY THUS MAY YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THIS DANGER.
TERRIFIC.
LAST TIME I PEERED INTO THAT BLACK PIT YOU CALL A MIND... ...I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT FOR A WEEK.
WHICH IS WHY I SUGGEST YOU REVIVE WARLOCK BEFORE LINKING PSYCHES WITH ME.
HIS PRESENCE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

CONSIDER THE MATTER WHILE I TEND TO OTHER DUTIES.
SUCH AS?
TECHNICAL MATTERS BEYOND YOUR CURRENT GRASP.
AND PIP CALLED ME A CHARMER.
I APOLOGIZE. I DID NOT MEAN TO OFFEND.
I NEED YOUR TRUST.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
TRUST.
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THAT, DOES IT?
A COMMODITY YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT GIVING, AND THANOS IS LOUSY AT ELICITING.
YOU CAN NEVER TELL IF THE BIG GUY IS ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS OR NOT.
BUT WHATEVER HE'S UP TO, I FIGURE WITH ADAM AT OUR SIDE, WE'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT.
DON'T LET THIS GO TO YOUR HEAD, PIP...
BUT FOR ONCE...
...I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU.
I KNEW THAT CRETIN'S PRESENCE WOULD PROVE USEFUL.
OPEN.


OMEGA WILL BE PLEASED.
BUT IF THE WOMAN GETS OUT OF LINE, X, I WILL GLADLY--
DO NOTHING, WARRIOR.
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I GREET YOU, MY BROTHERS.
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ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.
NO, I'M AFRAID INTELLIGENCE ON WARLOCK CANNOT BE GAINED THROUGH MAGICAL MEANS.
I THINK WE SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT THE ORIGINALS. WARD, GAMORA.
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART, BUT APART FROM THIS REALITY.
THE ULTIMATE OUTSIDER.
SHE IS NO THREAT TO US, ARMOUR.

I SAY WE SHOULD HUNT HER DOWN!
I SHOULD CRUSH HER!
AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHY YOU ARE NOT LEADING THIS ENDEAVOR, WARRIOR.
THE KEY TO OBLIVION IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SPLIT OUR FORCES.
EVERY-THING WE PLANNED IS COMING TO PASS.
FACE IT, MY BROTHERS,
DOOMS-DAY
IS UPON US!!
TIME DRAWS SO SHORT.
THE FORCES OF DARK-NESS GROW SO STRONG.
HAVE I FAILED ?!
IF I HAVE, THEN ALL THE UNI-VERSE ...
...WILL PAY FOR MY SHORTCOMINGS.
TO BE CONTINUED

I STRUGGLE TO RESIST THE NEARLY OVERPOWERING URGE TO LASH OUT AT MY COMRADES.
CAN THEY NOT SEE HOW FUTILE AND WRONG THEIR OPPOSITION IS?
WHY DO THEY NOT EMBRACE THE SIREN CALL OF THE VOID?
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TOO LONG ALONE IN THE ETHER.
715-B357
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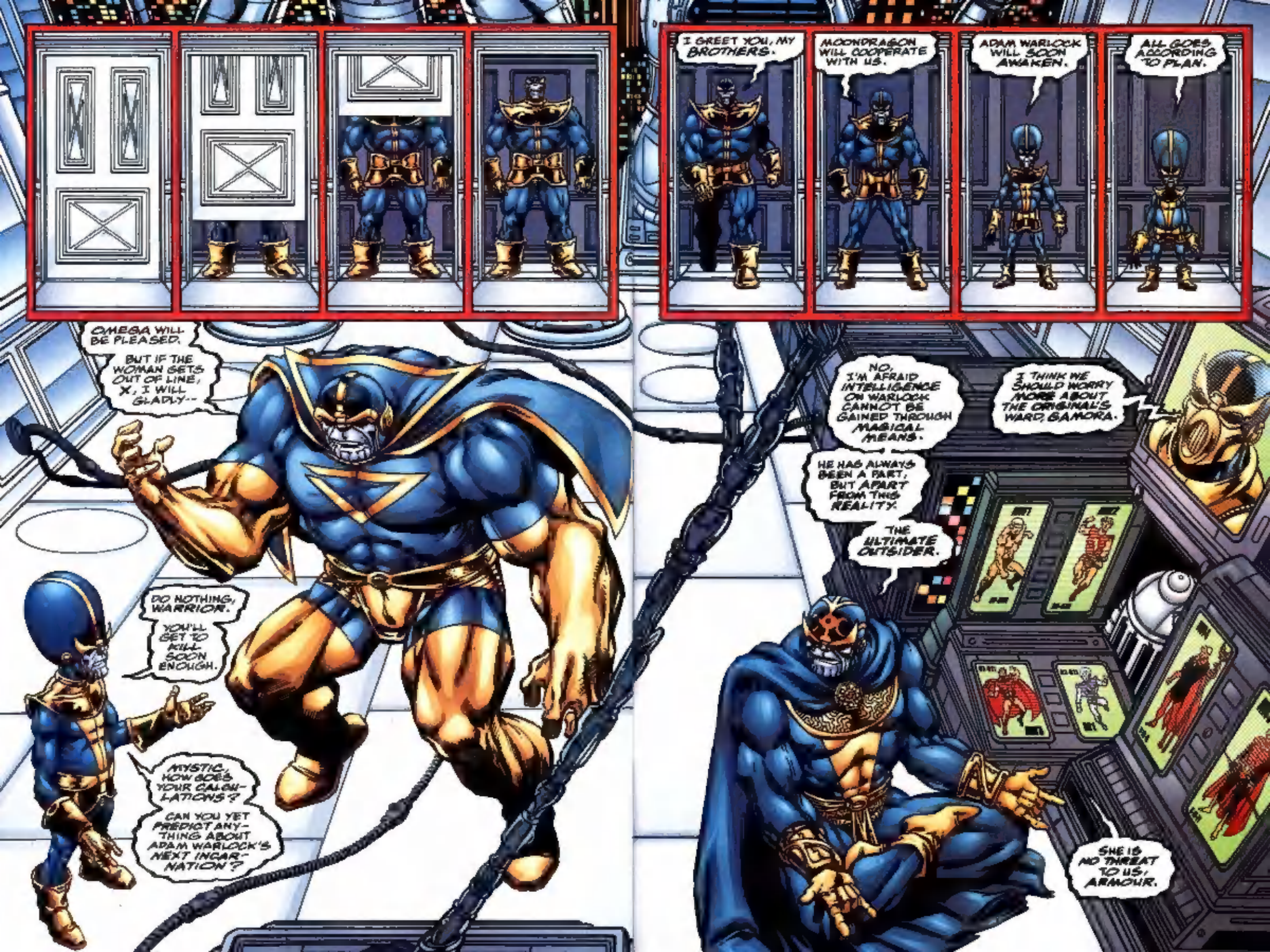
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